Library

TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for the year ending December,1958

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

POPULATION

For the purpose of estimating birth and death rates, the Registrar General has for the 1958 mid-year figure estimated the number of persons as 1,490 - a decrease of 10 over the previous year and an increase of 282 over 1948. This increase is in the main due to the Council's building policy and to a lesser degree to an increase in the number of children born.

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered was 32 of which 13 were males and 19 females. Of these 9, 28% took place at their homes. One birth was illegitimate. No Still Births were reported.

The Crude Birth Rate was 21.5 per 1,000 compared with 12.7 for 1957. This rate when adjusted for comparative purposes with other districts was 22.4 per 1,000.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered was 14 of which 8 were males and 6 were females.

The Crude Death Rate was 9.4 per 1,000 compared with 14.0 for 1957. The rate when adjusted for comparative purposes with other districts was 9.6 per 1,000.

The causes of death were certified as under:-

Coronary Heart Disease	2	Cancer	1
Other Heart Disease	1	Pneumonia	1
Other disease of Circulation	3	Senility	1
Haemorrhage of Brain	4	Accidental	1

One death occurred among infants under 12 months of age; and due to brain injury 5 days after birth.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No serious epidemic of the usual infectious diseases occurred and the following were those notified.

Measles	3
Food Poisoning	-
Pneumonia	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Scarlet Fever	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register on the 31st December was three, all of these having the disease in the lungs.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Clinic in Christ Church School, Tintwistle, was held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. A doctor, a nurse, and members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attended each session.

It is understood that by arrangement between the County Education Authority and the owners of the Sunday School, the room at present allocated for the examination and weighing of infants will during 1959 be used as an elementary school class room, thereby necessitating the provision of an alternative room for holding the child welfare clinic. The room in question will require internal decoration and provision made whereby separate access from the exterior can be available for mothers and infants. This provision has been agreed by the owners and with good co-operation between the parties concerned it should be possible to continue holding child welfare clinic sessions on the premises.

These sessions have continued for ten years and the attendance has been well maintained throughout the period.

Attendances were as under:-

New Cases	Total Attendances	Average Attendances	Seen by Doctor
33 (24)	571 (670)	24 (28)	141 (94)

Figures in brackets indicate the corresponding numbers in the previous year.

As no public transport is available provision is made for cases resident in the Crowden and Woodhead area to be provided with free motor transport to attend the clinic once per month.

A Ladies Voluntary Welfare Committee provides valuable assistance to the Doctor and Nurse in attendance by the sale of infant foods, the provision of teas to mothers, and clerical duties in connection with the clinic. In addition to the stock of proprietary infant foods maintained by this Committee the issue of National Welfare Foods against coupons surrendered by the recipients is undertaken.

One member of this Committee attends the monthly meetings of the Hyde Divisional Health Committee, thus providing a very necessary link between this voluntary body and the statutory Divisional Health Committee which in effect is a Sub-committee of the Cheshire County Health Committee.

NURSING SERVICES

The part-time services of a Health Visitor, employed by the County Council, who is also responsible for covering the Longdendale U.D.C. area are available. Her duties include the visiting in the homes of all children under the age of 5 years, attendance at Clinic sessions and the visiting of school children in need of medical supervision.

The care of the aged and infirm in their own homes forms an important part of her duties, and visits to cases of Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are carried out at regular periods by this Nurse.

Cases of general sickness in the homes of the residents can, upon the request of family doctors, receive nursing attention from a District Nurse employed by the Cheshire County Council resident in Hollingworth.

For maternity cases a Domiciliary Midwife resident in Hollingworth covers the Council's area. Motor transport is provided for these three nurses.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance transport for the sick and injured is the responsibility of the Hyde Health Division of the Cheshire County Council

The number of patients carried during 1958 was 1,103. This figure is higher than any previous year and is an indication of the increasing facilities for out-patient treatment at hospitals and not evidence of increased ill-health among the community.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. H. Dane, part-time Public Health Inspector to your Council, has supplied me with the following information:-

WATER SUPPLY

The supply is provided by Manchester Corporation from the Crowden and Woodhead catchment areas. The water supply is adequate and of good quality. All drinking water supplied to the Tintwistle area, with the exception of Woodhead and Crowden, is now chlorinated. Although not filtered at present work is now in progress in the area for the installation of filtration plant.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The majority of premises are fitted with the water carriage system of drainage. There are only 4 premises where a pail type of closet is in existence, of which 2 are of "Elsan" type. There are also 25 tippler closets in use and a grant aided scheme has now been brought into operation whereby the slop water closets shall be converted into fresh-water flush closets.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council is at present giving consideration to the very necessary extension and improvements required at its Sewage Works.

REFUSE

Ashbins are the usual method for the collection of household waste, there being approximately 570 bins in use, which are emptied weekly at Tintwistle and fortnightly at Crowden and Woodhead. Difficulties in obtaining regular attention to these have been overcome and for the present is satisfactory. Greater attention to the method of disposal is however required in order to avoid infestation of vermin.

No ashpits or privy middens exist within the area.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections made in accordance with the Sanitary Officers Regulations, 1935, was approximately.....620
Statutory Notices served..... 2
Informal Notices served..... 40

DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLY

The number of farms at which milk is produced and sold either retail or wholesale is 4. Bottled milk is supplied at 3 premises. All are inspected periodically, milk sampling for cleanliness and quality is under the control of the County Council. In addition, two farms in the Crowden and Woodhead area produce milk only for the use of the farmer and his family.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, regular surveys have been carried out - Sewers, outfall works and the refuse tips being treated with poisons approximately six times per year. Complaints regarding rat and mice infestations are dealt with promptly. The poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Red Squill, Warfarin, and "Lepit" gas cartridges.

I am appreciative of the assistance rendered to me by members of the Council and for the help and information supplied by other officials.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

F. W. C. BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1959.